

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the **Performance Management Committee** was held on 23 April 2008.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda, reports and minutes for the meeting held on 23 April 2008.

The following recommendations arose as a result of the meeting:

[PM/501] Lanner and Carrier Forensic Management reports – progress against recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police Authority agree to the principle of a Task and Finish Group to oversee and quality assure the work in response to the way forward report being prepared by the Head of Scientific Services (subject to the Authority reviewing the report).

The Committee considered progress towards the recommendations from the Lanner and Carrier studies into the Force's forensics provision, originally published in late 2004.

The Chairman expressed his frustration that four years on, several actions still had not been completed and that opportunities had been lost to greatly improve forensics provision and the subsequent uplift in sanction detection performance.

The Head of Scientific Services reported that she has been tasked to review the outstanding actions from the Lanner and Carrier studies and determine the appropriate way forward. She is due to present her report to the Deputy Chief Constable on 2 May 2008.

The Deputy Chief Constable spoke of the significant threat the Force and Police Authority face in achieving detection targets and the shared ambition of becoming a top performing Force due to the issues with forensics management. The Deputy Chief Constable invited the Police Authority to work jointly with the Force to oversee the work in response to the way forward report being prepared by the Head of Scientific Services. It was suggested that the Authority may wish to adopt a Task and Finish approach and act as a 'critical friend' to quality assure the project and assess progress.

In summary the Chairman stated the Committee

- shared the Deputy Chief Constable's concerns regarding the differing threats to performance due to forensics management
- welcomed the creation of a Task and Finish Group to work alongside the Constabulary to drive performance improvement
- to recommend to the Police Authority on 9 May 2008 that such a Task and Finish Group be established
- Eagerly await the Head of Scientific Services' way forward report
- Await assurance that the Force has the necessary resources to deal with the issues raised in the way forward report and,

Ask for a report on the latest progress to be presented to the next meeting of this Committee on 12 June 2008.

[PM/502] Chairman's Announcement

RECOMMENDED that the Authority agree to the establishing of a Working Group along to examine performance data about such specific areas of performance as shall be referred to it from time to time.

Mike Bull, Lynne Dunn, Martyn Hodge, Jo Norton and Jill Owen have completed the 4th and final foundation module of the 'Can You Manage It' performance management training. It was felt that it would be beneficial to the Police Authority if these Members were appointed to the Performance Management Committee. There would also be scope for using their skills in studying and analysing data about specific areas of performance from time to time through a Working Group.

Matters discussed (with minutes references shown in brackets) included:

[PM/503] Performance towards the Annual Policing Plan (Targets)

This report provided details of the Force's performance against the Annual Policing Plan Targets between April 2007 and March 2008

Eleven of the 16 Force targets have been achieved.

Road traffic collisions (killed and seriously injured) – despite recent successes from Operation Vortex, the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions has risen by 59 against a target reduction of 20. The most dramatic rise has been seen in Devon BCU. The rise is seen as a result of a range of factors rather than any one particular issue.

The committee Chairman has received assurances from the Deputy Chief Constable that collision reduction would remain a priority area closely monitored by the Performance Improvement and Tasking Group (PITG) and the county-wide Strategic Partnerships including the Local Area Agreements (LAA's).

Members were advised of the new approach being taken by the Force to manage performance. The PITG meetings, will continue to be held two-weekly but will also operate on a rotating cycle with each week focusing on different themes holding Local Policing Area (LPA) commanders (now being Superintendents) to account with their BCU Commanders.

[PM/504] NCRS/ NSIR Update

Lynne Dunn, Lead Member for National Crime Recording Standard and the National Standard of Incident Recording, provided an update on the work she had undertaken in this role.

[PM/505] Rape Detection Improvement Plan

Following a request by the Police Authority on 15 February, Members reviewed performance towards the detection of rape offences.

Training into powers provided by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will not be completed until the end of May 2008. Members expressed their concern at the amount of time this training has taken to be delivered.

Rape detection rates have dropped slightly over the last year. Victim care is seen as the single most important factor in improving performance.

The Committee has called for a further update in November.

[PM/506] HMIC Phase 1 Inspection Report 2007 – progress against recommendations

The Committee considered a report providing an update to the recommendations and areas for improvement provided by HMIC in October last year.

[PM/507] Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

Following a request by the Police Authority on 15 February, Members reviewed the Force's approach to Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

[PM/508] Outstanding Warrants

The Committee were presented with a report providing information on the number of fail-to-appear warrants that remain outstanding across Devon and Cornwall.

Mike Bull
Chairman, Performance Management Committee